



WDFW LAND EXCHANGE

Proposed Land Exchange Between Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

OBJECTIVE

Desiring increased efficiency and cost savings, DNR and WDFW have developed an exchange proposal to consolidate ownerships, creating more manageable landscapes for each agency. Most of these lands occur in checkerboard ownerships throughout Eastern Washington but primarily in Kittitas, Yakima, and Chelan Counties. The repositioning of these lands will provide increased management certainty for both DNR and WDFW ensuring long-term trust revenue responsibilities for DNR and enhanced habitat protection and management for WDFW.

BENEFITS

- Ownership consolidation will improve operational efficiency.
- Key in-holdings will be obtained.
- Ability to achieve respective agency missions with limited staff and financial resources will improve.
- Exchange will put appropriate lands into the agency better suited for that landscape.
- Enhanced options for landscapes managed under DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Improved protection of critical wildlife habitat and migration routes.
- Recreational opportunities may increase.
- Sustainability of forest landscapes and forest health are enhanced.
- Exchange will compliment other future land exchanges being considered by DNR.

EXCHANGE SPECIFICS

WDFW to DNR 55,000± acres

DNR to WDFW

117,000± acres

Exchange involves eight trusts: Common School, Agricultural School, University-Transferred, Charitable, Capitol Building, Normal School, Escheat, and Scientific School.

WDFW lands to DNR

- Exchange involves four counties: Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima.
- Exchange lands are a portion of five wildlife areas: Colockum, Wenas, LT Murray, Sinlahekin, and Oak Creek.
- Large portion of exchange lands are forestlands above 3,000' elevation.

DNR lands to WDFW

- Proposed properties involve eighteen counties: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Thurston, Whatcom, Yakima.

- Lands are primarily shrub steppe or forestlands below 3,000' elevation.
- Most of the proposed properties were formerly leased to WDFW and a small portion of the exchange candidate parcels have been leased by private parties.
- Properties are largely intermingled (checkerboard) with WDFW or private ownership lands.
- Timber species and composition are representative of the types found along the east slopes of the cascades.
- The properties support an abundance of wildlife species including some that are listed as threatened and endangered.

Habitat Conservation Plan

- DNR exchange properties have the following HCP role (acreages are approximate):
 - 102,380 acres are not included in the HCP.
 - 120 acres designated as western WA - No Role for the Northern Spotted Owl.
 - 12,000 acres are designated as eastern WA – No Role for the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) but located in the Yakima HCP Planning Unit.
 - 2,500 acres are designated as eastern WA – No Role for the Northern Spotted Owl but located in the Chelan HCP Planning Unit.
 - No DNR acreage contemplated for exchange is classified in either Nesting Roosting and Foraging (NRF) or dispersal habitat for the NSO.
 - All lands received by the DNR will be reviewed for inclusion in the HCP.

EXCHANGE BALANCE

- The final exchange of property will be balanced for equal market value between the state trusts (DNR) and WDFW.
- Values are to be determined by an independent market appraisal.
- Not all lands being appraised will necessarily be included in the exchange.
- The trusts will be repositioned to land of equal market value.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Information meetings begin in November and public hearings may occur in early 2007.
- Website will be updated as changes occur.
- Third party appraisal contract will be awarded.
- Review of appraisals and value balancing.
- Parties agree on lands to be exchanged.
- Final agreement is presented to the Board of Natural Resources for decision.

CONTACT

Pamela Plancich, Exchange Outreach Coordinator
 Asset Management & Protection Division
 PO Box 47014
 Olympia, WA 98504-7014
 360.902.1600

Additional information is available on our website: www.dnr.wa.gov